Oklahoma Chess Monthly

JANUARY 2020

Chess News and Chess History for Oklahoma

Happy New Decade!

In This Issue:

- Chuck Coatney
- Commissioning Your Own Custom Set
- IM Donaldson Book Reviews
- Plus News Bites, Game of the Month, Puzzles, Top 25 List, Tournament Reports, and more.

Editor's Note

It's 2020!... the beginning of what will no doubt be a tumultuous decade.

While the political fights and culture wars roil on, let's realize that the battles on the chessboard are a sanctum of quiet relief. In chess we can have challenging competition that is still friendly. In chess we can meet many new interesting thoughtful people (an example of which is in this issue).

I hope to bring you more stories about the players and moves going on in the world of chess. I am constantly amazed by how much there is to write about even just here in our little Southwest chess region that I try to cover in the Oklahoma Chess Monthly — Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas, SW Missouri, North Texas. When I started the OCM in 2016 after the passing of Frank Berry, I wondered if I would run out of things to talk about after six months or so. The opposite is the case! My "inbox" of stuff to put in the OCM keeps getting piled higher every month. I like that!

I'm also pleased that so many others have volunteered to write for OCM too. Keep it up!

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CHESS CONNECTIONS

Perspectives on the Chess Web with Chuck Coatney

by Tom Braunlich

Competitive chess builds a web of connections between people around a shared experience exploring the 64 squares. Whether you are aware of it or not, this is one of the things we all love about chess! Want proof?

Look at this picture:

This is a photo from the Tulsa Chess League in the mid 1950s. In those days following World War II, Tulsa was full of well educated engineers and businessmen in the aircraft and oil industries, and a league of 12 company teams was very active throughout the '50s and '60s.

The man playing here is Art Anderson. He is Board 1 for TriCo, a Tulsa engineering firm.

Behind him is Harold Brown Sr., another participant who played for Nelson Electric.

Now — fast-forward about *65 years*. Look at this picture, taken a few weeks ago:

The man on the right here is Chuck Coatney, now 94 years old. Chuck was best friends with Art Anderson, and played Board 2 for the same TriCo team.

His opponent of course is well known in Oklahoma tournament chess. **Harold Brown Jr.**; the son of the man in the first picture.

How did they meet? Coatney's assisted living facility manager sent me an email asking for someone to come and play chess with one of their residents. I asked Harold to go, and he discovered these connections.

The chess web.

But that's not all. I went myself to meet Chuck, who provided many more examples of the chess web of connections. Chuck told us more stories about those days of chess in Tulsa from the 1950s. He did not play in tournaments, but played in the leagues many years and knew all the top Tulsa players. The leagues in those days included teams from Douglas Aircraft (later McDonnell-Douglas), American Airlines, Shell Oil, TU, etc. They all had 5-player teams.

Another connection: Among Chuck's close chess friends he mentioned was Victor McBee, Sr., another participant in the league. Chuck would visit his home, where McBee had a young son,

Victor McBee Jr. (1967)
—World Staff Photo by Jim Tinkler

and he helped teach the kid how to play chess.

That kid grew up to be Victor McBee, Jr. The photo at left is the only one I have of Victor, from the Tulsa World in 1967.

As a teenager, Victor McBee Jr. was best friends in the later 1960s with — Harold Brown Jr.! The two of them ran around to tournaments a lot. I knew Victor a little bit in the 1970s. He was in a wheelchair his whole life, and was a fascinating person. Smart and witty. He won the state championship in 1967 and 1969. (This photo Victor McBee Jr. at age 22 is from the Tulsa World is the only picture I have found of him now.)

One of McBee's biggest rivals from this time was Bill Devin; another great chess "character" who is unforgetable, and who I believe is living in Fayetteville now. Devin was pals with Harold, as well as with Bill Sparks. I saw Sparks at the chess club last weekend, who said he'd recently visited Devin. See how the web works?

Another example of Chess Connections: One of the players Chuck mentioned was Bill Huckin, who was a lawyer in Tulsa and 1700-rated player throughout the 50s and 60s and also played in the leagues. Well, Huckin played chess in high school in the 1930s with — my father, Frank Braunlich. Huckin came to visit a tournament here in Broken Arrow in 2005 and introduced himself to me. I called my father, who came over to reminisce with him for awhile.

Another example: Chuck Coatney talked about witnessing the battles in the Tulsa Chess League between Dr. Bela Rozsa (11-time state champion, who played board 1 for TU) and Sam Mayfield, a rated expert who was the number 2 player in Tulsa. Mayfield seemed to always come 2nd to Rozsa in the state championship tournaments, although one year he tied for 1st but lost on tiebreaks. "Mayfield was a very nice guy," Coatney said. "He was a big guy, very tall. He worked for Shell Oil as a CPA and was their board 1. Every game they had was hard fought. I remember one game Rosza got outplayed and was faced with mate, but wouldn't let Mayfield mate him. Instead he resigned. Mayfield extented his hand and said 'good game' but Rozsa just waved his hands and said 'Later!'" (He didn't want to shake then but would shake hands later when he cooled off.)

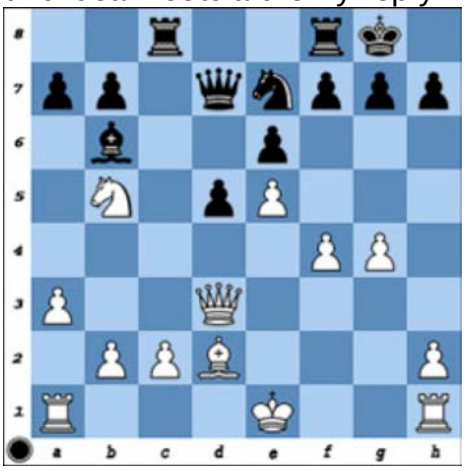
So, thirty-some years after that game Frank Berry moves back to Oklahoma. He had known Rozsa in the '60s. Now he begins collecting game scores for his project to preserve chess history in Oklahoma. He collected well over 100 of Rozsa's games — including this one, which I believe is the one Coatney witnessed in this story.

The notes to this game are by I.A. Horowitz, an IM who was editor of *Chess Review*.

Rozsa, Bela (2100)
Mayfield, Sam (2000) [C17]
Tulsa, 1960
[Notes by I.A. Horowitz in Chess Review, 1961]

Played at 30–30 time control.
Tulsa City Chess League.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 French Winawer 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Ba5 6.Bb5+
White's last is weak, for it leads to the trade of Black's potential 'bad' bishop and also favors Black in view of the pawn formation in the center. [The regular move is 6.b4 cxd4 7.Nb5 *(7.Qg4)* ; 6.Bd2 Nc6! 7.Qg4!? *(7.Nb5 Nxd4!)* ; 6.Qg4 Ne7 7.dxc5]
6...Bd7 7.Bxd7+ Qxd7 8.Nge2 Nc6 9.f4
Now White takes on a weakening of the king-side which also creates a further obstruction to White's bishop. But the e-pawn needs extra protection and the alternative 9.Bf4 Ne7 also favors Black (although we consider it the lesser evil).
9...cxd4 10.Nxd4 Nxd4 11.Qxd4 Ne7 12.Bd2 0–0 13.g4
Here White prevents 13...Nf5, at the expense of time, though. Since White obviouly intends O-O-O, he can better play it outright.
13...Bb6 14.Qd3 Rac8 15.Nb5
Here is one more error as White misses the last moment for the comparatively safe OOO. White wants to anchor his knight on d6, but this idea meets a thorny reply.



15...Rxc2!!
Elegant and powerful! This exchange-sac prevents the consolidation of White's game and in fact opens him up to attack.
16.Qxc2 Qxb5 17.Bb4
White is in dire straights. [17.0–0–0 Rc8 18.Bc3 d4–+; 17.Rc1 Nc6 *(17...Rc8?? 18.Qxc8++-)* 18.Bc3 Be3 19.Bd2 Nd4–+]
17...Rc8 18.Qe2 Qd7 19.Bxe7 Qxe7 (threatening ...Qh4+ –TB) 20.h4 Rc4! The horizontal penetration of this rook is devastating. 21.Qf3 Qc5 22.Rd1 Re4+–+ 23.Kf1 Re3 24.Qg2 Qc4+ 25.Kg1 Rh3+ 0–1

Chuck Coatney himself is a fine example of the players from 'The Greatest Generation' that grew up poor during the Great Depression and won World War II, and yet still found time to get a good education and explore intellectual pursuits like chess.

He had an unusual job during the war — he was a commando for the U.S. Coast Guard. At age 17 Chuck joined the military and ended up in the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard was very active and played a significant role during the war, although it isn't well known. They not only defended our coast but participated in D-Day in very important ways, and in Pacific island landings too. They wanted to form a new commando unit for the Pacific.

Chuck was sent for this commando training in Alameda California. "186 guys signed up, only 26 got through," he said. He was on a ship patroling in the Bering Sea around Alaska, responsible for defending the long coast line out to 10-12 miles from shore against Japanese incursions. The Japanese had actually invaded two of the Aleutian Islands in 1942 and there were bloody battles there. But in addition to that Chuck said, "they would set up refueling stops for their submarines on the remote islands there. We would search for these with our planes, and when they found one my group was sent in by ship to destroy them, while avoiding subs. The temperature would get down as much as 50 degrees below zero up there. … And I hated the moonlight, because it would light up the sea, and we'd be out there and couldn't hide from the subs."

Born in Tulsa in 1925, Chuck married his

childhood sweetheart at age 18 and they were married for 62 years.

He got into chess upon return from the war and began playing in leagues in 1951 and continued until the early 1960s. “I was a pretty ambitious player for awhile, until I saw George Koltanowsky give a blindfold exhibition at TU, where he won almost all the games against our best players. I saw that, and thought, ‘Good grief, what am I doing trying to play this game!’ He was so good, and yet wasn’t even among the best players in the world.” He showed us his autographed copy of one of Koltanowsky’s books, which he still cherished.

After that realization, he eventually quit serious play. “I quit because I got to where I wasn’t even reading the Bible anymore, plus I had a lot of code books (computer work) to study.”

“But I always loved chess. It’s like life … if you don’t make the right moves in life you can get in trouble.”

The regions we try to cover in the OCM. If you have news items or upcoming tournament info for this area, please send them along to me. tom.braunlich@cox.net

HOW TO GET YOUR OWN CUSTOM-MADE CHESS SET, JUST THE WAY YOU WANT IT

by Chris Walker

I recently decided to have a chess set custom-made for me with all the features I like best.

What? You can do that? Well, yes to some extent you can — where you can control how it is going to look and what you get for your money, rather than the manufacturer's vision of what a chess set is to be. You can combine your favorite features from various designs into one integrated design you can think of as your own. And you can do it at a cost in line with regular high-quality standard chess sets.

Don't get me wrong; there are some really fascinating and beautiful chess set designs on the market, many with an interesting history behind them. I have been an accumulator of my favorites for many years, with almost 25 in my collection.

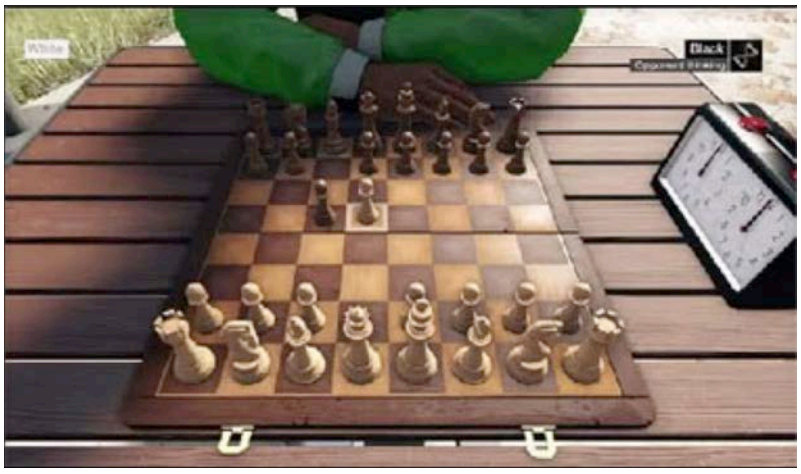
However I sometimes feel like I have a love/hate relationship with chess sets, which often have some features I like, plus unfortunately a few I don't. This might be hard for many players to understand — many players choose a set as just a tool to play the game, and treat them as such. They just get the basic club plastic sets and use them until they become so rounded off and worn down that you start to wonder if that Bishop is a Pawn or a Bishop.

But other players soon venture out of the realm of plastic and get a wooden set that is in the Economy Class, say in the $40-$70 range. I am like that too, and seldom want to spend beyond $100 for a chess set, preferring to be frugal and not spend half of my paycheck on pieces of wood that can range up to $1000, and may end up collecting dust once I eventually get tired of collecting them. For me, this I think is the main reason why I collect chess sets — I don't enjoy playing chess as much if the pieces start to feel boring. I really do love the game but having a nice set is like the icing on the cake for me. It isn't the main attraction of chess but it tends to be more enjoyable — Sometimes playing with a fun new set is like having that first cup of coffee in the morning. It really hits the spot!

Which brings me to why I went ahead and pulled the trigger on having a custom made chess set with all my favorite features. There are many wonderful designs of Staunton chessmen out on the market. I feel like I want them all! Then reality sets in. My wife gets upset when I bring home another stray set from the market. So this year I said to her that this will be the last year, and I will quit bringing home the strays — after I get this custom set made!

My journey to having a custom chess set made had a bizarre beginning. It started when I saw a video of a video game called *Watch Dogs* on YouTube. In this hacker-style shooter game, players have the opportunity to play chess *within* the game — and their digital chess set design really was cool. It pushed all my visual buttons! I could see it was like a combination of a Bridled Knight set with the knights from a Leningrad set. I really liked how well the set flowed.

Here is a screen shot of the set during game play:



A screen shot of chess in Watch Dogs. *Watch Dogs* is an action-adventure game developed by Ubisoft Montreal and published by Ubisoft. It was released for Microsoft Windows, PlayStation 3, PlayStation 4, Xbox 360, Xbox One, and Wii U in 2014.

The reason I liked this set so much is because it had design characteristics I liked from two different sets that are favorites of mine:

1) The "Bridled Knight set":

2) The "Leningrad Set":

- The king in the *Bridled Knight* set is so distinctive — and I like it because it is a style that is not mass copied. I like the queen and pawn from it too, and also the rook except that I wanted the rook to be fatter, not so thin.
- But the 'swan-neck' knights from the *Leningrad* set have to be my favorite design for knights.
- However, I wasn't fully satisfied with the style of the bishop in the *Bridled Knight* set. Instead I decided to see if I could customize that to be a third style by merging it with the "Bohemian" style of bishop that has an opposite-colored finial on top, and without the slice in the bishop's miter-shaped head. Here is a photo of a "Bohemian Set" which is an example of this kind of bishop:

TOP 25

For JANUARY 2020

	Active Oklahoma Players			
	Player	This Month	Change	
1	Advait Patel	2551	0	
2	Jeffrey Haskel	2362	0	
3	Howard Zhong	2293	0	
4	Bart Gibbons	2217	0	
5	Tom Braunlich	2200	0	
6	Mark Hulsey	2199	0	
7	Chibuzo C Ilonze	2107	0	
8	Adonis Turner	2084	0	▲
9	John Cope	2084	0	▲
10	Veronika Zilajeva	2083	-8	▼
11	Anthony Paolercio	2080	0	
12	Tom Patton	2077	0	
13	Ryan Amburgy	2067	4	▲
14	Charles D Unruh	2063	0	▼
15	Matt Dalthorp	2062	0	
16	James Long	2053	0	
17	David Luscomb	2045	0	
18	Michael Nugent	2042	0	
19	Charles M Unruh	2033	0	
20	Chuck Johnson	2010	0	
21	Jeff Colbert	2008	0	
22	Logan Zachare	2001	4	
23	Stephen Gehly	1958	0	
24	Joe Dean Veal	1942	-4	
25	Charles Woodall	1937	0	

Player of the Month

HOWARD ZHONG

Now studying math and CS at M.I.T., he found time to lead their team at the PanAm Inter-collegiate Team to a good result, including a draw with GM Kamil Dragun (2646).

"Bohemian Set":

Of course, you cannot just get all three of these sets and combine them together – that would be a Frankenstein set of mismatching pieces, different wood types, different "base" designs and widths and heights. To make a custom set they need to be made together from matching woods, with cohesive heights and base designs.

I also have definite opinions about what kinds of wood look best on a quality chess set, and made that a part of my custom-design wish list — Rosewood and Boxwood.

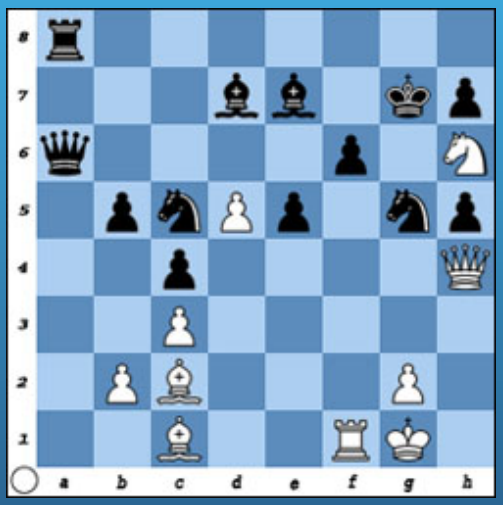
There is a company in India called the The Chess Empire, which has artisans that have been able to reproduce any style of chess set based on pictures. I decided to see if they could make my custom set for me, and they agreed to do it, at the very reasonable price of $225 + $15 in PayPal fees. I paid it off in installments and received it in December, 2019.

Here is an actual photo of my final design, which I have dubbed the "Russian Bride":

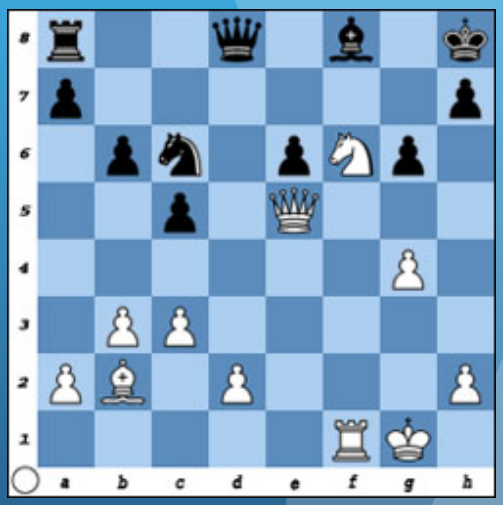
The Final Version. "Russian Bride"

PUZZLES

Answers Next Page



White to move and win. (Easy)



Black to move and win. (Medium)

It has the following customized elements that you can see in the photo when compared to the previous two photos:

- King — from the "Bridled Knight" set,
- Queen — from the "Bridled Knight" set,
- Bishop — from the "Bohemian" style merged with elements of the "Bridled Knight" set, featuring a solid western egg-shaped head (no miter cut) with opposite colored ball finials on top,
- Knight — from the "Leningrad" set, with a more detailed "swan neck" knight design similar to a Zagreb knight design,
- Rook — from the "Bridled Knight" set, but I asked for a "fatter" body.
- Pawn — from the "Bridled Knight" set.

Commissioning the Production of the Set

I was truly blown away by how honest and generous Mr. Rishi Sharma of The Chess Empire was during this whole process. I never had a phone call with him. I simply sent him pictures of what I was looking for in the final set design and gave written instructions of what I wanted. I am truly amazed at what I have seen out of Rishi.

So if you are one of those chess players who sees chess sets as being more than a set of tools, and who is always wishing that if they could just make a set with your favorite features, and none of the elements you don't like, then I would highly recommend going the custom route!

Resources

Here is the website to The Chess Empire.
https://www.thechessempire.com/?SID=5f27b75bc521c5b058b7595f911035c3

Here is a video of them quickly turning a chess piece — in this case a king from an Egyptian set, and how they do it using some specialized tool guides:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nIvTkIGZ9IU&feature=youtu.be

Answers to the Puzzles

Two classic queen sacs by Magnus Carlsen:

(1) 1. Qxg5+! hxg5 2. Rf7+ and mate next move with 3. Rxh7#

(2) 1. Ne8+!! (blocking the 8th rank so that black's bishop is not protected by the queen.
1. … Nxe5 2. Rxf8 mate
1. … Kg8 2. Qh8+! Kxh8 3. Rxf8 mate

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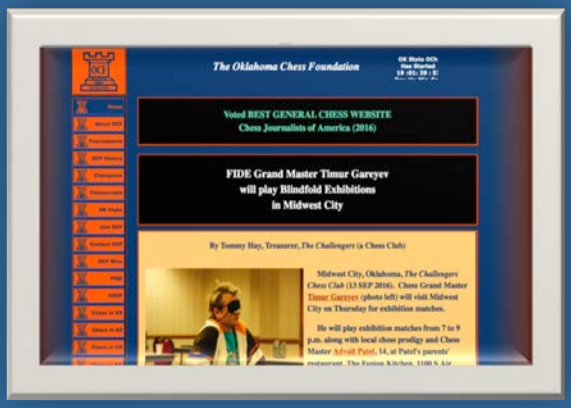
The Oklahoma Chess Foundation
Voted BEST GENERAL CHESS WEBSITE
Chess Journalists of America (2016)
FIDE Grand Master Timur Gareyev
will play Blindfold Exhibitions
in Midwest City

Voted BEST GENERAL CHESS WEBSITE
Chess Journalists of America (2016)

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Our Intrepid Texican Volunteer

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… and more

The 2019 Kamp's Winter Open took place December 7, 2019, at Kamp's 1910 Café in downtown Oklahoma City. It was a 4-SS of Rapid chess, directed by Bart Gibbons.

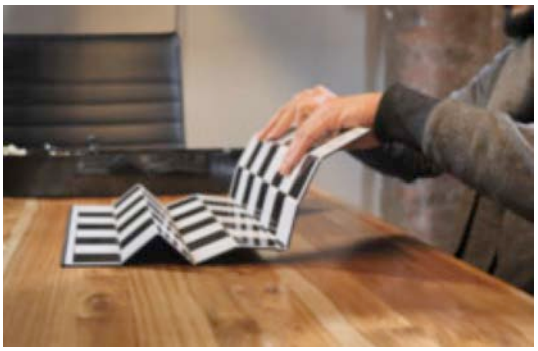
Max Barnes won with a fine 4-0 score, including a last-round win over Raymond Griffin. Joe Veal was clear second with 3½.

Full crosstable is here:

http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?201912074212.1-12520979

New Kind of Folding Chess Board

A new chess product has multiple folds and can fit in standard chess bags, and won't wrinkle. $32 https://foldingchessboard.com



CHOKER

There is a new kind of online game that combines chess with poker, called CHOKER. Cards representing each of the chess pieces are dealt, as in Texas Hold'em, with rounds of betting on each card. If the betting goes to a showdown, the pieces are put on a chess board and the players play out a blitz game with their pieces to see who wins the pot! (h/t Chris W.)

Demo by GM Nakamura here on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVx8I0y8rGI&feature=youtu.be

2019 HOLIDAY OPEN

Thirup Ramanathan of Fayetteville, won the 52-player event on Dec 28. Story next issue.

Mark Hulsey sends in this photo of his cat, saying, "No wonder I've been losing to the cat at chess."

Steiner, Herman (2417)
Rozsa, Bela (2135) [E31]
US Open Milwaukee (10), 17.08.1953
[Notes by TB]

The discussion of Dr. Bela Rozsa earlier in this issue prompted me to bring back this game.

Herman Steiner was an IM originally from Hungary who moved to the USA in 1932 and lived in Hollywood, California where he ran a chess club that was frequented by celebrities like Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall, shown on the right in this picture, with Steiner in the middle and actor Charles Boyer at left.

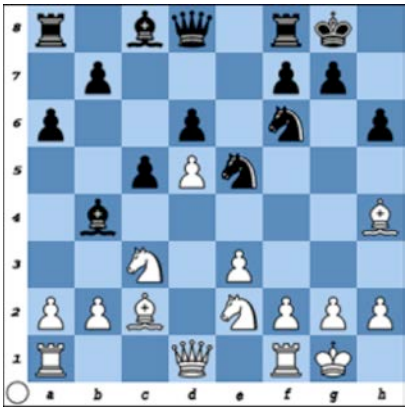
He won the U.S. Championship in 1948, and the U.S. Open a couple times. He got the IM title in 1950, but he died young in 1955. It so happens that the first tournament game that Bela Rozsa ever played was against Herman Steiner, in Dallas in 1940, and the game ended in a draw. So perhaps Steiner played a little too aggressively trying to win this game.

Of course, Bela Rozsa was head of the music department at the University of Tulsa, with an international reputation as a scholar. He was many time state champion of Oklahoma, and was a top player in the region in general. In correspondence play once won the U.S. Championship. This is one of his most famous upset wins.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Bg5
The Leningrad Variation was new at this time in 1953, made fashionable by young stars like Boris Spassky.
4...h6 5.Bh4 c5 6.d5 Critical Position of the line 6...exd5
The top theoretical move is still supposed to be the Blumenfeld-like pawn sacrifice with [6...b5!? 7.dxe6 fxe6 8.cxb5 d5]
7.cxd5 d6 8.e3
[8.f3 was suggested by John Nunn, who gave 8...0-0 9.e4 Nbd7=]
8...Nbd7
Black already seems to have a good game here, as white's play in the center is already slow due to e3 instead of the e4 move you already have in the Benoni. Black can give up his bishop if needed and will not have a cramped formation, with a queenside majority that gives him chances later in the game. This all is why the Leningrad Variation of the Nimzo has never been popular after this flurry with it in the 1950s.
9.Bb5!?
[This seems extravagant. 9.Bd3 is more natural.]
9...0-0 [9...a6 10.Ba4 *(10.Bxd7+ Bxd7≥)* 10...b5 11.Bc2≥ is better for black, but this can likely be played later, and in the meantime maybe the bishop will be misplaced.]
10.Nge2 a6
[10...Ne5 11.0-0 Ng6 12.Bg3 Nh5 13.Bd3 Nxg3 14.Nxg3 Ne5 15.Be2 Bxc3 16.bxc3 Qh4 17.f4 Ng4 18.Bxg4 Bxg4 19.Qa4!= Spassky - Smyslov, Bucharest 1953]
11.Bd3
Now this is clearly inconsistent with Bb5. Why give black a free tempo for a move he wants? White should take on d7 and soon play f2-f3 with attacking ideas like g2-g4 in the future, or just e3-e4. Chuck Johnson has been known to play this line like that with success.

11.Bxd7 Bxd7 12.f3 but it is hard to believe in this line, as white is far behind in development. However, Steiner no doubt was wanting to keep pieces on the board, as he is playing for a win. So he is taking risks.

11...Ne5 12.Bc2



12...Bg4

Part of an artificial plan. It's natural to develop actively, but the Bishop's purpose here is merely to pin the e2 knight in order to create some tactical threats, but these prove to be a mistake to pursue.

An interesting alternative plan would be: 12...Ng6 13.Bg3 Re8 *(13...Ba5!?)* 14.0-0 Ne5 15.a3 Ba5 16.Rb1 Bd7 17.b4 cxb4 18.axb4 Bb6]

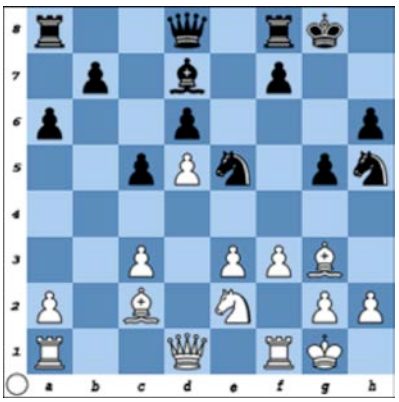
13.0-0 g5?!

Faced with the positional threat of f3 followed by Ne4, Rozsa probably thought this risky move was necessary. But he could wait to commit to it, for example: [13...Re8 14.f3 Bd7 15.Ne4 g5 now forced, but black is okay. 16.Bf2 Nxe4 17.Bxe4 f5≥]

14.Bg3 Bxc3 15.bxc3 Nh5

[Did Rozsa plan to win a pawn with 15...Bxe2? 16.Qxe2 Nxd5 17.Qd2 but then change his mind since white would get great compensation for it with a quick f2ñf4.]

16.f3 Bd7



17.f4?

[Steiner could have got a strong positional edge with the simple 17.Bxe5 dxe5 18.g4 Nf6 19.Ng3±]

17...Ng6! 18.c4?

[18.f5! is good as a way to get a similar position to my last note for white after 18...Ne5 *(18...Nxg3? 19.Nxg3 Ne5 20.Qh5!±)* 19.Bxe5 dxe5≤; Note that after 18.f5 if black tries 18...Nxg3 19.Nxg3 Ne5 20.Qh5 gives white a strong game.]

18...Qe7! 19.Qd3 f5 20.Rae1 Rae8 [20...b5=] 21.Nc3 Qg7

The position has reached an interesting impasse of dynamic equality with the unusual pawn structure. Neither player wants to touch the f4 pawn.

22.Ne2! [22.fxg5 Nxg3 23.gxh6? Qxh6 24.hxg3 Ne5 25.Qe2 Ng4+]

22...b5!

Rozsa increases the pressure on white's formation.

23.fxg5

White really isn't able to maintain the status quo any longer. For example [23.Qa3 Nxg3 24.Nxg3 gxf4 25.Nh5 Qe5 26.exf4 Qd4+ 27.Kh1 Rxe1 28.Rxe1 Qxc4 and white's position is falling apart anyway.]

23...Nxg3 24.Nxg3 Ne5! 25.Qd1

[25.gxh6 Qxh6 26.Qc3 Ng4 27.h3 Rxe3 winning.]

25...Qxg5 26.cxb5 axb5 27.Qc1 Ng4 28.Rf3 Qh4 29.Nf1

White has been forced to retreat into passive defense, and Rozsa breaks through nicely, showing his class as a player.

29...f4!! 30.e4

[30.g3? fxg3 31.Rxf8+ Rxf8 32.hxg3 Rxf1+ 33.Kxf1 Qh2+]

30...Ne5

Black's combination has netted a big positional advantage. White's pieces are passive, while black's are beautifully placed.

31.Rf2 Re7 32.Nd2 Ng4 33.g3 Qh3 34.Rg2 f3 35.Nxf3 Rxf3 36.Bd1 Rf6 37.Bxg4 Bxg4 38.e5 dxe5 39.Qxc5 Ref7 40.Qxb5 Bf3 41.Rd2 e4 42.d6 Bg4 43.Rg2 Bd7

White gave up a piece for counterplay with his passed d-pawn, but it has come to an end. Now all that remains is the choice of how to break white's last defenses. Rozsa chooses to take advantage of back-rank mate possibilities.

44.Qb4 e3! 45.Qb8+ Kg7 46.Qb2 Kh7

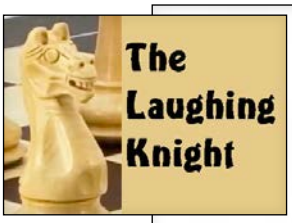
To upin the rook. Black sacrificed his e-pawn intending to find a way to simply get his bishop onto the long diagonal, which is totally winning.

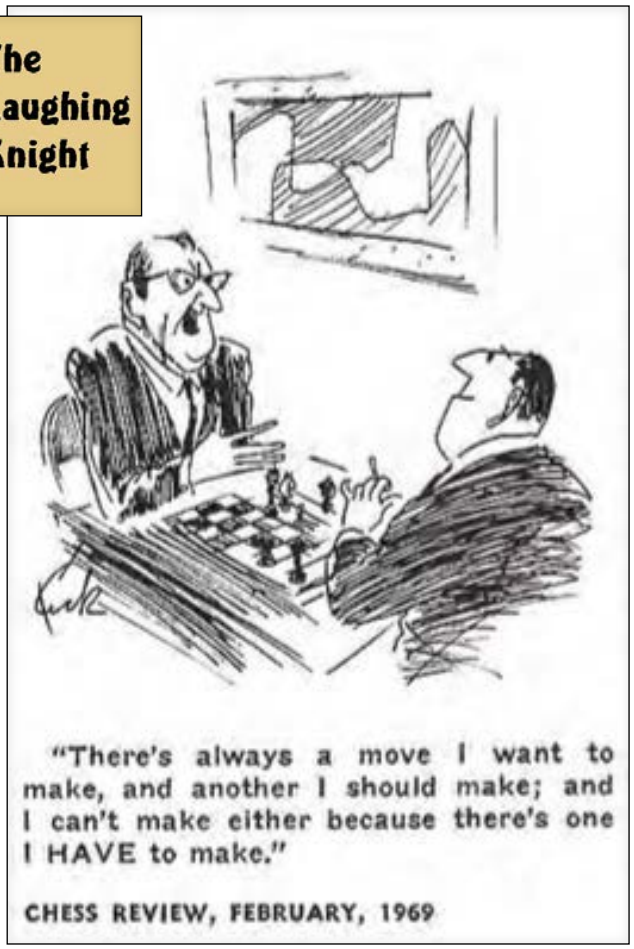
47.Qb1+ Bf5 48.Qb4

Stopping ...Be4, but

48...Bd3 0-1

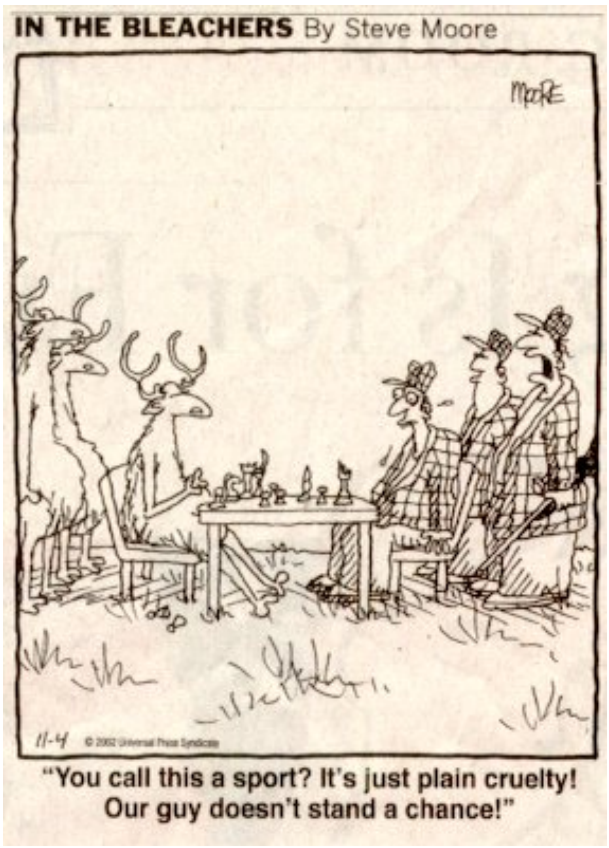
Leads to mate. A very nice game by Rozsa, and you can see why he was 11-time state champion!





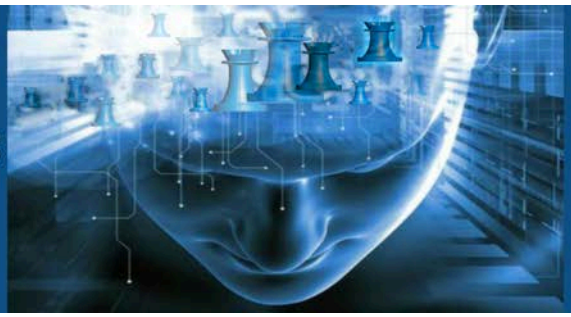
"There's always a move I want to make, and another I should make; and I can't make either because there's one I HAVE to make."

CHESS REVIEW, FEBRUARY, 1969



"You call this a sport? It's just plain cruelty! Our guy doesn't stand a chance!"

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

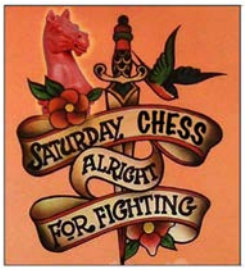


For More Tournament Info Visit the USCF Tournament Site:
www.uschess.org/tlas/upcoming.php

FEB 13-17 SOUTHWEST CLASS CHAMPIONSHIP Fort Worth TX

9-SS (Master Section) 7-SS (other sections); G/90+30; DFW Airport Marriott South, 4151 Centreport Blvd., Fort Worth, TX 76155. Multiple schedules and sections. Questions: chesstour.com,

FEB 22 & 29 WHITCOMB CHARITY MEMORIAL ConSat Tulsa OK



4-SS with two traditional G/90+30 games played on each of two Consecutive Saturdays. Harvard Avenue Baptist Church, 3235 E. 17th St. (17th & Harvard), Tulsa, OK. **Three Sections:** Open, Reserve (U1800), Novice (U1200). **Prizes (b/30):** $150 first place in each section, plus more prizes if entries allow. **REG.:** Each day, 9:00-10:15am. **Rounds:** 10:30am - 3:00pm each day. **BYES:** Two 1/2-point byes for either day if you can't make it to one of the game days. **Entry Fee:** (Half of all entry fees goes to widow of the late Bran Whitcomb.) $30 for both days, $20 per day if you can only play one day. **Adv. Entries via PayPal:** www.paypal.me/Braunlich **Adv. Entries by Mail:** T.Braunlich, 1638 S. Carson, #803, Tulsa, OK 74119. **Info:** tom.braunlich@cox.net LS W. **Free coffee and refreshments.**

MAR 7-8 FOUR STATES WINTER OPEN Joplin MO

Sat: 4-SS, G/60 d5. Sun: 4-SS, G/20,+3 and 4-SS, G/5,+3. Hilton Garden Inn, 2644 E. 32nd St., Joplin, MO 64804. Sat: 2 Sections, Open: $120-80, U1600 60, U1400: $60-40. 4.0 Bonus: $20.. Sun: Quick and Blitz one section each $75, $50, U1600 $30, U1400 $20. Prizes: b/25 full-paid entries. EF: $50 for both days, $40 Sat only, $20 Sun only. $10 discount for preregistration. K-12 players 50% entry, play for rating only; MCA membership required, OSA Reg.: 8-9. Sat: 9:30-11:45-2:30-4:45. Sun:1st round 9:30 Byes: One 1/2 point bye if requested before round 2 Ent: martin.stahl@joplinchess.org with cash on-site, paypal.me/joplinchess. Joplin Chess Club, 2609 New Hampshire, Joplin, MO 64804. Cks payable to Martin Stahl. Info: joplinchess.org, 417-483-1554.

TENTATIVE 2020 OKLAHOMA CHESS TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

The OCF promotes traditional chess tournaments in Oklahoma and the region.
This is the OCF's Tentative Plan for 2020 — plus a few known events from other organizations of interest to the region. All is subject to change until the TLA is published.

Date	City	Name	Host	Type	Notes
Feb 8	*Moore*	*OSCO Scholastic Event*	*OSCO*		
Feb 22 / Feb 29	**Tulsa**	**Whitcomb Charity Con-Sat Memorial**	**OCF**	**CLASSIC**	4-SS traditional, CON-SAT event. 1/2 proceeds to charity.
Mar 7	*Midwest City*	*OSCO State Finals*	*OSCO*		
Apr 18	**Davis**	**Red River Shootout #18**	**OCF**	**Rapid**	Annual Team event OK vs TX. To play, contact: Phil Stegall, stegali@aol.com
May 16-17	**OKC**	**Frank K Berry Memorial (4th)**	**OCF**	**CLASSIC**	Weekend before Memorial Day Weekend.
June - late	*?*	*OCA Oklahoma Open*	**OCA**		
July 10-12	*Lawrence KS*	*Kansas Open*	*KCA*		
July 18-19	**Okmulgee**	**Jerry Spann Memorial (52nd)**	**OCF**	**CLASSIC**	The site may be switched with the FKB Memorial depending on availability.
Aug 22 / Aug 29	**Tulsa**	**Steve Wharry 'Con-Sat' Classic (3rd)**	**OCF**	**CLASSIC**	ConSat Format
Oct 10	**Tulsa**	**National Chess Day—Fischer Random**	**OCF**	**F/Random**	
Nov 14-15	**OKC**	**Oklahoma City Open**	**OCF**	**CLASSIC**	Venue not confirmed yet.
Dec 26	**Tulsa**	**Holiday Open (30th)**	**OCF**	**Rapid**	30th Annual. 4-rd Rapid Swiss.

- PLUS at least two one-day tournaments at KAMPS in Oklahoma City that Bart Gibbons will direct.
- PLUS other possible events like a Quads event again in Chandler, not yet planned.
- PLUS nearby events in Southwest Missouri and Arkansas are possible this year.

By IM John Donaldson

REVIEW:

- *Soviet Outcast: The Life and Games of Grigory Levenfish (2019)*
- *Advanced Chess Tactics (2019)*

The Scottish firm Quality Chess (www.qualitychess.co.uk) is best known for its high-level opening books but that's not all it publishes. Two recent offerings are a combination game collection/memoir and a middle game book.

Soviet Outcast: The Life and Games of Grigory Levenfish (2019, 303 pages, figurine algebraic, $31.95) is part of the Quality Chess Classic series which consists primarily of newly translated masterpieces from the glory days of Soviet Chess. This particular volume is based on Grigory Levenfish's *Izbrannye Partii i Vospominanie* (Selected Games and Reminiscences), but is much more than that.

The personal project of the noted Russian translator and chess historian Douglas Griffin, this book contains many extra games annotated by Levenfish that did not appear in the original paperback edition published in the Soviet Union in 1967. Other extras one has come to expect from Quality Chess books include a 30-page essay by Grandmaster Jacob Aagard examining Levenfish's career in a modern light, crosstables of his most important tournaments and biographical details not found in the original work.

Grigory Levenfish was born in 1889 near the city of Łódź and spent part of his youth in Lublin before moving to St. Petersburg to attend university. It was there he first gained widespread attention when he won the city championship in 1909. Two years later Levenfish made his international debut at Carlsbad, which was also his last tournament outside of Russia/Soviet Union.

The cause for this was two-fold: The First World War and the Soviet Revolution. The latter led to a huge chess boom in the newly founded Soviet Union, but the change of government did not benefit Levenfish. Despite many excellent results in the national championship and a drawn match with Botvinnik in 1937 he never enjoyed the support the "Patriarch" received. Alone among top Soviets players he never received a stipend, working most of his life as a chemist.

Levenfish (left) vs. Botvinnik during their match for the Soviet Championship in 1937. The winner was to be the first person to win 6 games, and a 5-5 tie would retain the title for the current champ (which was Levenfish). After 12 games Levenfish was trailing 5-4, but he won game 13 to tie the match.

Besides many well-annotated games *Soviet Outcast: The Life and Games of Grigory Levenfish* contains his reminiscences including his recollections of playing Alekhine dozens of training games when the future World Champion was on his way up just before World War I. There are many interesting tidbits sprinkled throughout this book including Levenfish's insights on Rubinstein, Capablanca and Lasker.

The memories are not always great, but Levenfish

manages to keep his sense of humor, as can be seen in his reminiscences about the All-Russia Olympiad (subsequently considered to be the 1st USSR Championship) held in 1920 in dire economic times.

The organization of supplies for the participants of the Olympiad was no easy matter. The accommodation in the dormitory was 'full board'. Alas, in those difficult years for the republic it consisted of two hundred grams of bread, and one meal – lunch. For first course we were given soup made of herring heads. For the second – herring tails. Where the middle parts of the herring were, we did not manage to establish…

Levenfish is remembered as not only as a world top ten player in the 1930s, but also for also writing two very important books. Smyslov is given as the co-author of *Rook and Pawn Endings* but according to him Levenfish did the lion's share of the work.

Less known is that Levenfish was the father of the *Encyclopedia of Chess Openings series*. In the late 1930s he began work on a predecessor to the famous opening monographs called *Sovremenniy Debut*. His work, on what was to be a three-volume series, is described at length in *Soviet Outcast: The Life and Games of Grigory Levenfish.* The Second World War ended the project after the first book, but according to the late IM Nikolay Minev this work provided the foundation for much of the older 1.e4 e5 theory in the first edition of Volume C of *ECO which* came out in the 1970s.

Soviet Outcast: The Life and Games of Grigory Levenfish is a edition treatment of a book that deserves to be called a classic.

Advanced Chess Tactics (2019, 416 pages, figurine algebraic, $31.95) by two-time Soviet Champion Lev Psakhis is an outstanding book but has a title that could cause confusion. It is not a puzzle book nor is it to be confused with Yury Averbakh's similarly titled *Chess Tactics for Advanced Players.* Instead Psakhis explains *how to use tactics to build an attack.*

He does this through a series of very well annotated games which are arranged around certain pawn structures and openings: Attacking in the Benoni, Attacking with Hanging Pawns, IQP Positions: Attacking the King with Pieces, IQP Positions: Attacking with the h-pawn, IQP Positions: Versus the c-pawn, Attack in the Sicilian Labyrinths, Attack in the Catacombs of the Caro-Kann and Attacking in Rare and Non-Standard Openings.

This new edition is revised and expanded with an extra chapter on attacking the French which is close to 50 pages. *Advanced Chess Tactics* concludes with 56 challenging exercises and detailed solutions.

Lev Psakhis is recognized as one of the most important chess trainers of all time, having worked with Garry Kasparov, the Polgar sisters and the Indian national team. This book is a testament to his teaching.

An excerpt of this challenging but rewarding book, aimed at players 2200 on up, can be found at:
https://www.qualitychess.co.uk/ebooks/AdvancedChessTactics2ndedition-excerpt.pdf

Flexibility in the implementation of a plan is absolutely necessary to achieve success in present-day chess. – Lev Psakhis

"Chess is a constant struggle between my desire not to lose and my desire not to think.
— GM Jan Gustafsson